

In recognition of the critical importance of ensuring the protection of the State's drinking water and the resources dependent on our finite supply of water, I have approved the restructuring of the Water Supply Administration to the Division of Water Supply. The proposed Division will consist of two elements and four bureaus.

The two elements will be Water Supply Permitting and Water Supply Operations. All water supply permitting activities are to be combined within the Water Supply Permitting Element. This includes water allocation permits, safe drinking water system construction permits and well drilling permits. This organization is expected to promote increased coordination between water supply and safe drinking water permit activities and ensure the timely processing of permits that support development in Growth Areas. The proposed Water Supply Permitting Element will consist of two bureaus: Water Allocation and the Water Systems and Well Permitting.

The second element of the new Division will be the Water Supply Operations Element consisting of two bureaus: Safe Drinking Water and Loan and Data Management. This element will serve in an oversight role of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) program, thus ensuring that applicable Federal and NJ SDWA monitoring requirements and drinking water quality standards are met. The element will also coordinate Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan activities, support data management for the entire Division, develop and implement water security policies and programs and implement the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act.

Michele Putnam will continue to lead the program as the new Director of the Division. Michele has over fifteen years of experience in a variety of environmental protection programs. She started her government service with the US Environmental Protection Agency in New York City. She has worked for the Department in a variety of technical and managerial levels in the Wastewater, Superfund, and Hazardous Waste Management Programs. Michele served the Department in several management positions including the Bureau Chief of Manifest and Information Systems, Assistant Director of Hazardous Waste Planning and Deputy Director of Hazardous Waste Operations before taking some time off to raise her two daughters. She has also worked part-time for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and since returning to the Department, the Watershed Management Program and as the Administrator of Water Supply. Michele grew up in Bergen County, is a graduate of Douglass College, Rutgers University and is married to another DEP employee, Assistant Director Ed Putnam.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce the selection of Fred Sickels as the Assistant Director of Water Supply Permitting. Fred has worked at the Department for 24 years. During his tenure he has held technical and supervisory positions in programs ranging from Tidelands Delineation, Hazardous Waste Management/Emergency Response, and Radiation Protection and as an assistant to the Assistant Commissioner of Land Use Management. He has done an outstanding job in his most recent position as Chief, Bureau of Water Allocation, responsible for the management and administration of water allocation permitting, agricultural water use certification and well regulation programs. I look forward to his continued advances in ensuring environmental protection, while expediting permit processing and decisions.

Mr. Sickels holds a B.A. in Biology from Rider University and a M.S. in Biology from Rutgers University. He also holds a Certified Public Manager (C.P.M.) designation from Rutgers University and the NJ Department of Personnel he is a resident of Hopewell Township, an avid outdoorsman, and enjoys raising and riding horses.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce the selection of Barker Hamill as the new Assistant Director of Water Supply Operations. Barker has worked for the New Jersey Bureau of Safe Drinking Water since 1976, and has been the Chief of the Bureau since his appointment in 1986. He provides the organization with an incredible depth of technical knowledge and experience in the safe drinking water program and is considered throughout the country as a true "expert" in his field. During his tenure in the Drinking Water program Barker has been involved one way or another in almost all the different aspects of the program. He has specifically been

involved in the implementation of volatile organic chemical (VOC) testing, and maximum contaminant level (MCL) monitoring programs. Barker has served four, two-year terms as the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) Board of Directors representative for Region II. Barker is also very involved with the New Jersey Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and was the 1993 recipient of the George Warren Fuller award for outstanding service to the field of water supply.

I hope you will all join me in congratulating Michele, Fred and Barker on their new appointments and wishing them the best of luck in this important work.

Bradley Campbell
Commissioner